

NOVEMBER, A TIME TO BE THANKFUL

A message from Principal Ramkissoon...



As the principal of the schools on the West Side Campus, Newark Early College and Newark Vocational, I welcome you to volume 1 of our newsletter for this school year, the Rough Writer. I want to begin my message by first saluting the hard working teachers and students of this campus and to then acknowledge the support of parents, local politicians, and other community supporters. As we know, the best schools always include the input of these groups.

This year, Newark Early College has grown in size thanks to the high level of interest expressed by students throughout our city. The early college model allows students to earn college credits while still enrolled in high school, therefore preparing them for post-secondary success. We should note that there are at least 50 students that have started their college tracks and have completed at least two college classes. These students will continue to participate in college courses, which will be offered right here on our campus, starting in January. Successful students will continue their studies during the Summer of 2016 at Essex County College, our partner in this educational venture. We anticipate that many more students will take advantage of these opportunities.

While Newark Vocational continues to focus on post-secondary success following a traditional business/entrepreneurial pathway, we are pleased to announce that additional offerings and certifications are being planned for the upcoming year. It is our hope to develop the CTE (college and technical education) program through increased partnerships with various manufacturing, banking, and hospitality organizations. We hope that the students of Newark Vocational take advantage of these opportunities so that they can graduate with training and certifications that make them job and career ready.

I look forward to working with you in the upcoming school year and invite you to join with us in celebrating the accomplishments of the students and adults on our campus.

Larry Ramkissoon

West Side Campus Principal– Newark Early College and Newark Vocational HS

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

Important Dates

Thanksgiving Recess Early Dismissal	Nov. 24
PTA Meeting 6:30 pm in the Auditorium	Dec. 9 Jan. 12
Holiday Recess Early Dismissal	Dec. 23
Interim Testing	Jan 25– 28

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Special points of interest:

- * Congrats to our teachers of the month! Ms. Mosselle (September), Ms. Wilm (October), and Mr. Burton (November)
- * RU-N Rutgers Mentoring Program every Wednesday
- * "It's a Family Affair" - November 26th.

ROUGH RIDERS WIN DEBATE TOURNAMENT

On October 17, 2015, Michael Lawrence, Rouwaida Nitiema, Kasson Chapman, and Michelle Bamidele competed in a debate tournament that included teams from Barringer HS, East Side HS, Newark Academy, Science Park, University HS and Mount Vernon HS. Up against teams

with 20 members strong, West Side Campus took first and second place and then won the competition outright. Although the judges were not familiar with our West Side students, Mr. Ferrand, the debate director, said our students quickly impressed and blew the

judges away with their powerful speeches and arguments.

Congratulations to Ms. Shery Serrattan and the debate team for bringing recognition and victory to our school. It is moments like this that resonate the meaning of a Rough Rider.

ALUMNI CORNER

West Side Campus is excited to welcome back the Rough Rider Class of 2005 for their 10 year class reunion. High school is a period in our lives that we dedicate to creating memories and meaningful relationships that last a lifetime. Alumni play a big role in shaping our school culture and the minds of the youth in our community by simply staying involved with their alma mater.

BE A PROACTIVE ROUGH RIDER

- Join the Alumni Association
- Join or start an organization that supports student population
- Become a mentor
- Share your class contacts to enhance the current WS alumni directory
- Show support at school events such as athletic games and academic competitions.
- Contribute to fundraising events or make a donation.



Above: WSC Chess Club
Below: WSC Debate Champions



CHANGING CLIMATE FOR POSITIVE CULTURE

Students, teachers, and principals often talk about the culture of their school. Sometimes it's positive and other times not so much, but almost always they are commenting on the feeling or tone of their school, a description of school climate. Climate reflects the quality and character of school life based on interpersonal relationships, values, and goals. A positive school climate fosters youth development and learning necessary for a productive, contributing, and satisfying life in a society. A constructive climate usually is composed of norms, values, and expectations that support people feeling emotionally, physically, and socially safe. It is an environment where students, families, and educators are engaged and respected in order to work together toward a school's vision. Whenever a group of people spend a significant time together, they develop a common set of expectations. Those expectations evolve into unwritten rules which everyone conforms to maintain good standing. This is the first step to creating a positive school culture. To reshape West Side's culture or school personality we must first address it's climate/ attitude and adjust our mindset. West Side Campus has adopted the Rough Rider Pledge as our first step toward a better culture to instill a positive affirmation and remind ourselves that together we can achieve change.

Rough Rider Pledge

I believe that I deserve to be respected and valued by others

For the things that make me unique and special.

I believe that my voice echoes the hopes, concern, and worries of those who choose not to speak.

I believe that I am blessed with tremendous potential to change the world

And I won't let anyone tell me otherwise

I am a Rough Rider.

I am strong.

I am invincible.

I preserve in the face of hardship.

I was born of greatness and to greatness I will return.

I am a Rough Rider.

I fight injustice where I find it.

I stand up for what's right.

I treat every challenge as an opportunity to prove that

I'm great.

I am the change.

I am the future.

I was born to lead.

I am a Rough Rider for life.

CHECKMATE!

The Westside Chess Club is in full gear. The first meeting was held on Tuesday, October 27, 2017 and we had a great turn out. The Rough Rider family has partnered up with the Newark Chess Club and it could not have been done without the help of Mr. Ramkissoon.

We are proud of Jaquil Wyman for taking the lead and assisting Ms. Hammond with creating the flyers and the sign-up sheet. Your leadership skills and commitment to the Chess Club have not gone unnoticed. Thank you!

All students who would like to learn how to play chess are welcomed to join us at our next meeting. We encourage young ladies to attend.

Mondays - 3:30 – 5pm in the Media Center
Fridays at 2:40-4:00pm in the Media Center

WSC TO THE BOWL

West Side campus is proud to announce their enrollment to compete in the NJ High School Consumer Bowl in Spring 2016.

The Consumer Bowl is based on all topics relating to Financial Literacy and Economics. The competition is very rigorous and the students have to be very committed in order to be fully prepared. The following students have been selected to represent our campus: Rouiwaida Nitiema (Captain), Michael Lawrence, Oluwasegun Dada, Abigail Perez, Alexandra Zambrana, and Billy Viceus. They will be prepping independently and meeting with their coach, Ms. Fermin, during advisory periods for further training.

Please be sure to encourage and motivate our team when you see them in the hallway. Special thanks to Ms. Jones, Mr. Long, and Ms. Wormley for their support in making this happen.

LOVE IS KIND PROJECT DOMESTIC ABUSE AWARENESS

Throughout the month of October, Mr. Deaver, in conjunction with the Lillian and Lillian Foundation, led a school campaign promoting education and awareness of domestic abuse through the *Love is Kind Project*. During morning announcements, students were greeted with endearing words of love and meanings of respect. Guest speaker, Chris Broussard, came to talk to the students about dating violence and discussed strategies on how to identify red flags in bad relationships. Ms. Alexander lead students in a lesson on how to use art as an outlet for their emotions by creating anti-bullying posters. Students also participated in poetry readings. Experiences and different



forms of empowerment were shared. Staff was further educated on domestic violence and had an opportunity to discuss with students the importance of self love. Staff and students partook in creating short video clips describing the impact of the *Love is Kind Project*. The month long campaign concluded with the Release the Pain Balloon Ceremony to commemorate lives lost due to the senseless violence such as domestic, neighborhood, and bullying crimes.



JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

On Wednesday, November 18, 2015, Ms. Fermin, Ms. Mosselle and Ms. Wormley, chaperoned (31) NEC/CTE students to the 2015 Junior Achievement/AT&T Job Mentoring Program in Bedminster, NJ.

Through the AT&T Aspire Job Mentoring Program, students were able to experience the diversity of employee roles at AT&T, and connect with mentors in various fields, and participate in hands-on activities that build employability skills and inspire students to succeed.

Students were also given a wonderful tour of AT&T building and experienced the Global Operations Network Center, (GNOC).

The students were very excited about the information that they received and some of them are very interested in working at AT&T in the future.



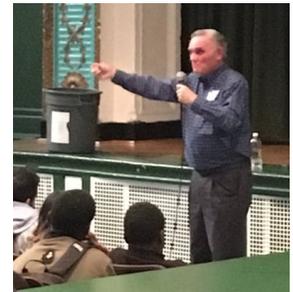
Chaperones Ms. Fermin, Ms. Mosselle, and Ms. Wormley with students at the AT&T Job Mentoring Program.



Thriller

Under the direction of Mr. Moton, the drama club of WSC performed the Thriller play which conclude a week filled with school spirit activities.

9/11 SURVIVOR VISITS WEST SIDE CAMPUS



Mr. Brian Clark visits West Side students to share his experience of surviving 9/11. Clark is one of the four survivors from the South tower who had offices above the line of impact.

IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR

On Thanksgiving, November 26th, we are hosting a Community Dinner from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. We are serving dinner buffet style to 500 families. During the dinner, we will also have 4 guest speakers talk about the following topics: Domestic Violence Awareness, Empowerment through Education, Stop the Violence, and Empower Families. Here are some ways to help: Volunteer (Community service hours will be awarded to student volunteers.) Donate items to fill Thanksgiving Baskets for our families in need. Spread the word.

We're on the Web!

www.nps.k12.nj.us/WSD

 @WSCampus

STUDENT LIFE



#DREAMBIG #BEEPIC

The Future Project exists to unleash the passion, power, purpose and possibility in students and the schools that serve them. We want each and every student to have the opportunity to #BeEpic. Here at West Side Campus, The Dream Team is the collection of the boldest Dreamers in our school that work together with the Dream Director to host events, teach classes, and build Future Projects that positively impact the entire school community. They also recruit other students to join the movement. Students, not on the Dream Team, can join the movement by becoming Future Fellows and creating a personal project for the school or community with the support of the Dream Team. In addition to being change agents in their own building, Dream Team members have the opportunity to travel the country connecting with other young Dreamers in 7 other cities, including San Francisco, Philadelphia, DC, and NY. Want to know more about the Dream Team? Find Ms. Tracee in Room 113 or ask any members of the Dream Team or check us out at www.thefutureproject.org

STUDENT BANKERS WIN



Kossi Amegnan (12th grade) and Valerie Desloges (12th grade)

represented WSC in the Student Banking Intern Annual Budget Competition bringing home 3rd place. Students had to balance a budget from a pre assigned scenario using principles from money and banking and financial literacy . They competed with students that represented schools from NY, NJ and Maryland. The competition took place at the Capital One Executive Board Room in New York. The students spent a lot of time after school preparing for this rigorous competition and were guided by Ms. Mary Ann C Mathews, Student Bank Branch Leader (WSC) and other Administrative team members from Capital One Bank Corporate Office. Thank you to the WSC student interns that supported our team: Aaron Moore, Janiyah Dorrah, Aatif Kalimah, Dina Rivera, Rafael Valdez, and Sadajah Herring.

STEM OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE ENGINEERS

Congratulations! Five of our students, Shaquan Barnes, Desiree Fields, Michelle Bamidele, Daniel Mendez, and Oluwasegun Dada have been selected to participate in a one of a kind opportunity to tour the facilities of the Picatinny Arsenal as a part of a pilot program sponsored by Picatinny's Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) program. These students will join five other students from Central High School and travel to the Picatinny Arsenal by bus on December 9, 2015 for a tour of the arsenal and an introduction to the potential engineering opportunities in Science Technology, Engineering and Mathe-

matics (STEM). Over the course of the next year these students will be exposed to studies in the core areas of electrical, chemical, mechanical, computer, and robotics engineering. It is our hope that these students will optimize the tremendous opportunity provided to them as we believe that within these walls lie great engineers and programmers. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the West Ward Alumni Association led and by our own Athletic Director – Gary Taylor for their support in making this happen.

RUTGERS MENTORSHIP

RU-N - Rutgers Mentoring Initiative - Rutgers students pair with mentee's from West Side Campus, each Wednesday from 3:30-4:30, to offer students one-on-one sessions to help make better academic choices and guides students to successful futures. Snacks are always on hand and the students have the opportunity to enjoy being on the college campus! Students: Sakena Blue, Xasia Cook, Nasif Crosby, Isis Hobbs, Whitney Johnson, Shakira Mitchell, Rashawn Richards, Aliea Richards, Rafiyyah Smith.

ICOULDBE PROJECT

E-Mentoring at iCouldBe is a journey that starts with students in public high schools across the US who select their own mentors, professionals working in careers that the students may want to pursue, and definitely want to learn more about. iCouldBe is embedded into existing classrooms, where one class period per week, students work on e-mentoring activities

that focus on academic success strategies, career exploration, and post-secondary educational exploration and planning. Special thanks to Mr. Timmons, Ms. Richardson, Ms. Fermin, Mr. Pereira, Ms. Scozzarro, Mr. Amabile, Ms. Wormley, Ms. Battle, Ms. McDowell, and Mr. Oliveira, for logging on with students every Friday.

EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRACURRICULAR!

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

ADVISOR: MR. ABBALEO

Students meeting academic requirements are currently preparing their campaign speeches to present to the school body and run for the student government positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The entire school will be able to cast a vote after viewing a live feed of the candidates speeches.

WWRR BROADCASTING

ADVISOR: MS. JONES

WWRR is Westside's first student run news channel! Students will report the news, sports and weather on the Westside Youtube channel and cover important community events. The students will choose if they want to be part of the cast (in front of the camera) or crew (behind the scene) and work collaboratively to successfully run their own network. Students will create pathways to careers in the broadcasting field. The club will meet on early morning at 7:30am to film the morning news and afterschool from 3:45pm-5:00pm



ADVISOR: MS. MCDOWELL

Girls Who Code is a national nonprofit organization leading the movement to inspire, educate and equip girls with the computing skills to pursue 21st-century opportunities. Through the Girls Who Code Clubs, we aim to close the gender gap in technology.

Meetings are held every Friday
2:40-4:40 in room 225



WSC National Honor Society 2015-2016 MEMBERS

JUNIORS

Michelle Bamidele Jahsiah Christmas
Desiree Fields

SENIORS

Zakiyah Glover Kierra Martin Kareem
Merrill Stacy Tyndall Naomi Williams
Nysira Welch Alexandra Zambrana

ART STUDENTS CARVE PUMPKINS



Congratulations are due to the following Art students: Shahid Burke, Paul Bonah, Trinity Carson and Shakyrah Hall. These students participated in the carving of 25 pumpkins for the Annual Garden's Aglow pumpkin contest in Upper Montclair. Given the theme of "Horror Film" for the carvings, our students selected to represent The Blair Witch Project. As first-time carvers of pumpkins, our students did an excellent job of depicting the theme. They competed against other Essex County Schools for a prize in this contest.



PARENT CORNER

Join us for upcoming events.

Tuesday- November 24th

Be Equipped, LLC.
<http://beequippedllc.com/>
Parent Advocacy Strategies
Session 1 12:45 pm
Session 2 4:00 pm

Wednesday- DEC 9th

PTSA Meeting and Student
Presentations
6:30 pm

Wednesday- DEC 2nd

Healthy Mind, Healthy Body,
Healthy YOU!
Free Massages, Lunch,
Conversation
11:30 am

Tuesday- JAN 12th

Jumpstart your Credit!
Credit repair workshop &
Dinner
5:00 pm
PTSA Meeting
6:30 pm

Wednesday- FEB 3rd

2nd Annual Transition & Job
Fair
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Wednesday- FEB 10th

Tenants' Rights and
Foreclosure Workshop
5:00 pm
PTSA Meeting
6:30 pm

All events are FREE and open
to the public.

For more information, please
contact West Side Campus
Community Engagement
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